

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 22 February 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's argument with respect to claim 11 has been considered but is moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 11, 12, 15 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,369,875 (issued to Kuba).**

Regarding **claim 11**, Kuba discloses a storage apparatus comprising:

a first interface unit for connection to a first external apparatus (*refer to Figure 1, "communication interface 42"*), said first interface unit having a first port (*refer to Figure 1, "serial connector 43"*) to which the first external apparatus ("*PCD 3*" or "*PHS 4*") is connectable and disconnectable and through which said first interface unit connects to the first external apparatus (*refer to c. 4, ll. 44-59, c. 5, ll. 29-67, and Figure 1; note: "communication interface 42 and the UART 25 share the function of the data communication" - c. 6, ll. 63-65*);

a second interface unit for connection to a second external apparatus (*refer to Figure 1, "±12-v converter 26"*), said second interface unit having a second port (*refer to Figure 1, "serial connector 44"*) to which the second external apparatus ("*personal computer 5*" or "*modem 6*") is connectable and disconnectable and through which said second interface unit connects to the second external apparatus (*refer to c. 4, ll. 44-59, c. 5, ll. 29-40, c. 6, ll. 1-11, and Figure 1*);

a third interface unit for connection to a removable storage medium (*refer to c. 5, ll. 11-13 and Figure 1, "memory card interface 28"*); and

a control unit that controls the first port and the second port (*refer to c. 5, l. 19 – c. 6, ll. 11 and Figure 1, "UART 25" and "UART switch 41"*); and

wherein if said first interface unit detects that the first external apparatus is connected to the first port, said control unit determines whether the first external apparatus is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit (*refer to c. 5, ll. 41-67, c. 7, ll. 38-60, Figure 3, "S2", and Figure 4*),

wherein if said second interface unit detects that the second external apparatus is connected to the second port, said control unit determines whether the second external apparatus is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit (*refer to c. 6, ll. 1-11, c. 8, ll. 1-19, and Figure 2, "S3-"S10"*),

wherein said control unit sets the second port in a disabled state responsive to a determination that the first external apparatus connected to the first port is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit (*refer to c. 5, ll. 54-67 and c. 7, ll. 39-60*); and

wherein said control unit sets the first port in the disabled state responsive to a determination that the second external apparatus connected to the second port is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit (*refer to c. 6, ll. 1-11 and c. 8, ll. 1-19*).

Regarding **claim 12**, refer to the rejection of claim 11 and Kuba further discloses that if the first port is set in the disabled state, the first port can not electrically connect to the first external apparatus (*refer to c. 6, ll. 1-11 and c. 8, ll. 1-19: "UART switch 41" electrically connects "serial connector 44", i.e. second port*), and

wherein if the second port is set in the disabled state, the second port can not electrically connect to the second external apparatus (*refer to c. 5, ll. 54-67 and c. 7, ll. 39-60: "UART switch 41" electrically connects "serial connector 43", i.e. first port*).

Regarding **claim 15**, refer to the rejection of claim 11 and Kuba further discloses that the storage apparatus is a digital video camera (*refer to c. 4, ll. 40-49, c. 4, l. 60 - c. 5, l. 18, c. 8, ll. 20-58, and Figure 1, "electronic camera 1"*).

Regarding **claim 21**, refer to the rejection of claim 11 and Kuba further discloses that if said first interface unit receives a predetermined command from the first external apparatus, said control unit determines that the first external apparatus is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit (*refer to c. 5, ll. 35-50, c. 6, ll. 20-57, and c. 8, ll. 38-67*), and

wherein if said second interface unit receives a predetermined command from the second external apparatus, said control unit determines that the second external apparatus is capable of accessing the removable storage medium connected to said third interface unit (*refer to c. 6, l. 58 - c. 7, l. 16*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuba in view of US Pub. No. 2002/0149677 (filed by Wright).

Regarding **claim 13**, Kuba discloses a storage apparatus comprising a first interface unit having a first port (refer to the rejection of claim 1). Kuba further discloses that the first interface unit and first port are serial type (refer to c. 5, ll. 29-40). However, Kuba does not disclose that the first interface unit conforms to an IEEE 1394-1995 or an IEEEa-2000 standard.

Wright discloses a storage apparatus (camera) comprising plural ports, one such port supporting Firewire, i.e. IEEE 1394-1995 (*refer to [0035]*). Therefore, it would have been obvious that the first interface unit conform to IEEE 1394-1995 as disclosed by Wright in the storage apparatus disclosed by Kuba because IEEE 1394-1995 is a common input/output port/standard (*refer to Wright [0035]*).

Regarding **claim 14**, Kuba discloses a storage apparatus comprising a second interface unit having a second port (refer to the rejection of claim 1). Kuba further discloses that the second interface unit and second port are serial type (refer to c. 5, ll. 29-40). However, Kuba does not disclose that the first interface unit conforms to an USB 1.1 or a USB 2.0 standard.

Wright discloses a storage apparatus (camera) comprising plural ports, one such port supporting USB (*refer to [0035]*). Therefore, it would have been obvious that the first interface unit conform to a USB standard as disclosed by Wright in the storage apparatus disclosed by Kuba because USB is a common input/output port/standard (*refer to Wright [0035]*).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD M. BEMBEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7634. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Ometz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2622

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